

*Old Greenwich
Presbyterian Church*

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



**12th Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Worship Service**

**OUR CHURCH'S MISSION:
To celebrate the love of
God in all we say and do.**

August 20, 2023

10 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

George Bradlau

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God, show your faithfulness to us,

bless us and make your face smile upon us!

For then the whole earth will acknowledge your ways,

and all the nations of earth will know of your power to save.

May all the nations praise you, O God;

may all the nations praise you!

OPENING PRAYER

*OPENING HYMN

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

358

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

At every opportunity, God of this day, we choose not to follow you. From our hearts to our mouths flow words that hurt others and come thoughts that lead us away from you. We are richly blessed but think others should be grateful for the crumbs we offer to them. Our claims to have great faith are disputed by our inability to trust you in all things. We come to you, Helper of the weak, for you are gracious and forgiving. You offer us the fullness of your love, not just a few dollops. You refuse to let us go but sweep us up with arms of joy. You send Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to lead us into your kingdom.

Silence is kept

*SILENT CONFESSION with *"Amen"* played

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

I ask you, has God rejected us?

No! By God's grace, God's gifts and God's calling are never taken back.

I ask you, again, has God rejected us?

No! That Love we know as God will never let us go.

This is good news, dear friends, believe it.

Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:

World without end! Amen! Amen!

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

376

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING - Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So, no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So, it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there - since there are five more years of famine to come - so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.' Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Keeping Score"

The Rev. Dr. Alex Hendrickson

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Tom DiGiovanni

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (with the Lord's Prayer)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and

lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Offertory

*Doxology

592

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

May we not offer you the leftovers of our resources and our lives, Blessing God, but let these gifts be but part of what we give back to you, as we seek to serve your people and your creation. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

347

*THE SENDING

Now go, to serve as God's people.

We will work to remove all that divides us from others.

Now go, to share the grace of Jesus.

We will love others just as we are loved.

Now go, to be the Spirit's community.

We will invite everyone to join us in this life of faith and service.

POSTLUDE

All are welcome to join for fellowship following the worship service.



Today, **Sunday, August 20**, we celebrate the **12th Sunday after Pentecost** at a 10 am **outdoor** worship service with guest preacher, **The Rev. Dr. Alex Hendrickson**. The service will be streamed on our Facebook Live feed at "Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church." (You need a Facebook account to access the Facebook Live feed.)

To view past worship services, please visit our YouTube page at "Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church." You can also find our YouTube page by visiting our website at www.ogpc.org, and scrolling down on the home page to "Watch a Service." To find prior live streams, click on the "Live" tab in YouTube.

TODAY WE WELCOME back to the pulpit, **The Rev. Dr. Alexandra Hendrickson**. Alex is the Director of Religious & Spiritual Life and College Chaplain at Lafayette College, Easton, PA. Originally from Arizona, Alex has served as pastor of PC (USA) congregations in a number of states. She currently lives in Easton with her husband and three children.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: The Pastor or the Administrative Ass't, or both, will be in the church Monday through Thursday, 9 am – 1 pm. Offices are closed on Fridays.

USHER TEAM SCHEDULE: August 20 – Team 2; August 27 – Team 3

OUTDOOR WORSHIP: TODAY, August 20 and August 27.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL! VBS will now be held **every Sunday through September 3, from 10 - 11:30 am**. Each week will be a stand-alone session and we are hoping that this will allow more children to be able to attend. Please pass this information to friends and family you think may be interested!

Contact Lisa Kolterjahn at (973) 809-2991 or Lkolterjahn88@gmail.com with questions.

The Community Outreach Committee is hosting a **BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND GRANOLA & BREAKFAST BARS DRIVE** along with River of Life PC through **August 21**. A collection bin marked for School Supplies will be in the Green Room for your donations. As always, thank you for your continued support of these outreach efforts which benefit kids in our local communities. Questions? Contact Sharon Smith at ssmith@nhvweb.net.

OGPC RALLY DAY



Sunday, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 | 10 am in Memorial Hall

The Church Care and Kinship Committee is planning a **POTLUCK LUNCHEON** on Rally Day, **Sunday, September 10!** Bring the kids - we will have a tailgate theme for that day! We would like to do something special for the men of the congregation, so we are asking for donations to make gift baskets for them. They must be present to win. Please give donations to Barb Frinzi or leave in the plastic bin marked "Men's Basket Donations" on the bench in the Green Room. You may also make a basket to donate. Donations for baskets should be in by September 3. Here are some ideas for donations:

Picnic grill basket
Movie/game night at home & treats
Spaghetti dinner basket
Small cooler to use as a "basket"
Handheld igniter
Bottle of hot sauce or marinade
Camp chair (for outdoor services)
Nerf Football

Deck of cards
Grill brush
Bug spray
OGPC baseball hat or shirt
Beer or wine
Tools
Home Depot gift card
Anything creative!

GREENWICH NURSERY SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY is being celebrated this school year. To mark this special milestone, they are looking for a few volunteers to join a 50th Anniversary Planning Committee. The committee will plan and run one or two events during the year which will celebrate the history of the pre-school and the partnership between GNS and OGPC. Please reach out to Amy Andersen at director@greenwicznursery.com or let Pastor Mary Beth know you are interested.



Please continue to support the mission and outreach of Old Greenwich by sending in your offering, even if you're out of town. If you'll be missing a service or two, you can donate before you leave, donate for the month with one check, mail your offering to the church, give online through ogpc.org or automate your payments through your financial institution. Your offering helps us to stay on track with our financial commitments and helps OGPC to continue offering the many wonderful things we have planned over the summer, including our vibrant outdoor services, blessing of the animals, special music and Vacation Bible School just to name a few!

PRAYER ROOM: This world is so busy and loud and overwhelming sometimes. If you ever need a quiet space to just "be still and know," and the office or church is open, the Prayer Room is available for you. It is located behind Memorial Hall, right next to the Choir Room. God in stillness waits there.

LAY READERS: There are dates available through the end of the year. You can sign up at ogpc.org. Click on the "Music & Worship" tab, and on the drop-down menu, click on "Sign up to be a Lay Reader." It will bring up Sunday dates and you enter your name for the week you'd like to be lay reader. You will receive a Lay Reader Bulletin via email on the Thursday prior to the Sunday you are scheduled, so you will be able to go over everything in advance. Questions? Please see Lisa Kolterjahn or email her at lkolterjahn88@gmail.com.

COME SEE BEAUTIFUL ART... right down the hall! Did you know that we have a watercolor art group that meets every Tuesday? (Anyone can join!) They are displaying some of their work in Trinity Wing (right next to the pastor's office)? Come check it out! It's our mini art gallery!

SUNDAY FLORAL DEDICATIONS: The cost to purchase arrangements for the communion table is **\$20 each**. You may sign up for dedicated flower arrangements to honor or remember loved ones. Please contact Robert Todd at Robert.Todd@icloud.com / 908-235-9322 to place an order and arrange dedication. Please place order *only one to two weeks prior* to the date which you would like the dedication to appear in the bulletin.

HOME COMMUNION: Want to receive home communion or know of someone who would? Please contact Deacon Moderator, Mike Lemons, at ML12504@gmail.com or Pastor Mary Beth at astormarybeth@gmail.com

NAMES ON THE PRAYER LIST will remain for four weeks. The first week, the names will be **bolded**. The last week, the names will be *italicized*. If you would like a name to remain longer or would like a name added, please email or call the church office.

Please pray for: Sandy Frey's father, Glen Stalder, grieving the loss of his good friend of 10 years, Nancy, who died on 8/11; Bill Schisler and his wife, Sue – Bill had mini strokes the week of 8/7 and will be having surgery on 8/22; the victims of wildfires in Maui and their families and friends; Don Metz, who is now in Kirkland Village Rehab in Bethlehem; prayers of celebration for the birth of Evren Reese, grandson of Kathleen Scala, born on 8/5; Sandy & Fritz Hamlin's daughter-in-law, Robin, who has cancer. Prayers of sustenance and strength for Robin, her husband, Brent, and for Sandy & Fritz; Sue Moore, whose house caught on fire last weekend. Thanks be to God that Sue and her dog, Danny, were unharmed; Ava Hixon, whose major surgery has been re-scheduled. We pray for guidance for all the medical staff who will attend to her, for healing, and peace and comfort for Ava and her whole family; Sally Reinhard's mom, Mary Ann Miller, who had hip replacement surgery; Christine Mette's granddaughter, Jessica, who had surgery on 7/27 to remove a benign mass in her brain; the Maso family: Ernie Maso's mother, Clara, has moved to Country Arch Care Center in Pittstown; *Newal Duncan and those from Stewartsville PC who left on 7/22 for their mission trip to Puerto Rico*; prayers of healing for Carol Lee Doeringer, who has heart issues; Fritz & Sandy Hamlin's daughter-in-law, Robin Schnell, prayers for healing and comfort; Bob & Trudy Frey; Stephen Toman; Skip Adams' son, Zachary; Bob and Trudy Frey's friends, Nancy Hummer and Ian Arnot; Debbie Mowrey; our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces; the citizens of Ukraine; those affected by the Corona virus and their families; all experiencing the effects of extreme weather conditions around the world

"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS"

WE ARE A GUN-FREE CHURCH – BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

Visit our Church's Web Site at: www.ogpc.org

Church Office e-mail address: oldgreenwich@ogpc.org

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

Kathleen Scala, Admin. Ass't

Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons

Betsy Gaston, Ass't Music Dir./Choir Dir.

Katie Rienzo, Treasurer and Fin. Sec'y

Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, *Gr'wich Ringers*

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Tom DiGiovanni, Music Dir./Organist

Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session

Cole Hosbach, Media/Comm. Ass't.

Bruce & Sandy Frey, Leaders, *Sonshine Singers*

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers